

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial and return a signed and dated copy of Form PTO/SB/08 A&B filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of March 3, 2004 in the next PTO communication.

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that the container is made of a porous material and a non-porous material and that the member comprising the container is put inside the electroluminescent device. These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, at page 5 to 9 and Figs. 1, 2 and 4-6.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-12 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamashita et al. (US 5,189,405).

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are not anticipated by Yamashita et al. As described above, in the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 from which claims 2, 6, 8 and 12 depend, to recite that the member is "put inside the electroluminescent device." That is, the member is separately placed in the inner space of the closed housing of the electroluminescent device and does not constitute a part of the closed housing by building it into the housing.

In contrast, Yamashita et al discloses that the moisture absorbent is dispersed within the wall of the container, as pointed out by the Examiner. However, Yamashita et al is silent about the member of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita et al does not disclose or anticipate the present invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Ebisawa et al. (EP 0 969 700 A1). Further, in Paragraph No. 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ebisawa et al. (US 6,284,342).

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are not anticipated by EP '700 and Ebisawa et al. As described above, in the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 from which claims 6 and 12 depend, to recite "a container which is made of a porous material and a non-porous material" and that the member is "put inside the electroluminescent device." That is, the member is separately placed in the inner space of the closed housing of the electroluminescent device and does not constitute a part of the closed housing by building it into the housing.

In contrast, EP '700 and Ebisawa et al describe an EL display assembly in which a desiccant is secured to a part of a sealing plate of a casing. However, EP '700 and Ebisawa et al are silent about the member of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that EP '700 and Ebisawa et al do not disclose or anticipate the present invention and the rejections should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 9 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/809,273

Attorney Docket: Q63124

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1 and 7 from which claims 3 and 9 depend secondarily have been overcome as set forth above and the objection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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